

**MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON SERVICES TO THE AGING**  
Michigan Office of Services to the Aging via Conference Call  
Meeting held at  
7109 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing  
July 20, 2007  
**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and reiterated the role of the Commission, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Owen Bieber, Cheryl Bollinger, Mary Gardner, Rose Gill, Jerutha Kennedy, Chun-Keung Leung, Donald Newport, Anthony Pawelski, Amne Talab, William Walters IV, Janice Wilson, and James Wright

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Excused)**

Albert Lewis, Thomas Rau, and Ramesh Verma

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT (Un-excused)**

None

**OSA STAFF PRESENT**

Cindy Albrecht, Bonnie Graham, Sharon Gire, Jan Bowlin, and Sherri King

**VISITORS/GUESTS PRESENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Pawelski made the motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

Commissioner Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Walters seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**INFORMATION FROM INDIVIDUALS CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**OSA DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Gire updated the Commission on the status of the FY 2007/2008 budget and noted that it must be completed by September 30, 2007.

Director Gire announced that OSA and the Office of Long Term Care Support and Services are working on a proposal for a new grant from Administration on Aging (AoA) focusing on nursing home diversion.

Director Gire also stated that Sherri King, OSA Staff, will provide more information later during her presentation to the Commission regarding the recently received grant from AoA for development of evidence-based disease prevention programs.

Director Gire represented OSA at the NASUA conference at her own expense given the Governor's Executive Directives and ongoing state budget crisis. Director Gire also has been invited to attend the annual meeting of the Michigan Community Action Agency Association next week to discuss how community action agencies and OSA might better support services to older adults in Michigan. Many local community action agencies function as aging service providers throughout the state.

Chairperson Kennedy thanked OSA for their continued work in developing new partnerships to assist our older population.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Approval of the Proposed Substantive Amendment to the FY 2007 Annual Area Implementation Plan (AIP) for Area Agency on Aging Region VII**

Jan Bowlin, OSA staff, requested the Commission's approval of the Proposed Substantive Amendment to the FY 2007 AIP for Region VII Area Agency on Aging. Ms. Bowlin stated that the amendment, as specified in appendix G: Request to Transfer Funds, will revise the AIP and area plan budget by transferring \$231,726 from Title III-C-1 Congregate Nutrition Services to Title III-B Supportive Services for In-Home Services.

Ms. Bowlin noted that Region VII has completed all necessary actions for a substantive amendment to the area plan, including a local public hearing held on May 15, 2007. Ms. Bowlin also noted that OSA staff have reviewed the materials and found they satisfy all pertinent area plan approval criteria.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the Proposed Substantive Amendment to the FY 2007 AIP for Area Agency on Aging Region VII. Commissioner Newport seconded the motion. The Commission approved with an 11-0-1 vote with Commissioner Pawelski abstaining due to conflict of interest.

A brief discussion followed on declining participation at congregate meals sites and the impact of recent changes in the minimum service standards for nutrition on that participation.

### **Approval of the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2007 Area Implementation Plan for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (Region 1-A)**

Sherri King, OSA staff, requested the Commission's approval of the Proposed Substantive Amendment to the FY 2007 AIP for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) to waive the requirement that a minimum of 10% of the agency's federal Title III-B allocation be expended for in-home services as a priority service.

Ms. King cited Area Agency on Aging Operating Standard C-9, which states, "OSA may grant a waiver to the minimum percentage of Title III-B funds to be expended for any category when the area agency demonstrates that such services are being furnished

through other resources, in the respective Planning and Service Area, in amounts greater than required by the respective minimum percentage.”

Ms. King referred to a letter from DAAA dated June 21, 2007, stating that in-home services are being provided through utilization of State Alternative Care, State In-Home Services, State Respite and Merit Trust Fund funding in the amount of \$791,537. DAAA’s Title III-B allocation is \$1,087,962. Ms. King stated the amount of funding budgeted for in-home services reflects 73% of DAAA’s Title III-B allocation and far exceeds the 10% minimum (\$108,796) that is expected for this priority service.

A motion was made by Commissioner Walters to approve the Proposed Amendment to the FY 2007 AIP for the Detroit Area Agency on Aging Region 1-A. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The Commission approved with an 10-0-1 vote with Chairperson Kennedy abstaining.

No discussion followed.

### **Approval of the FY 2007 Administration on Aging Evidence-Based Disease Program Allocations**

Sherri King, OSA staff, stated the Office of Services to the Aging was awarded an “Empowering Older People to Take More Control of Their Health Through Evidence-Based Prevention Programs” grant from AoA. Ms. King noted the grant begins on July 1, 2007 and runs for 36 months. The grant award is \$250,000 each year for three years.

Ms. King stated the goal of the program is to develop more evidence-based disease prevention programs in local communities. Ms. King cited examples of several similar programs that already exist such as: The Stanford Self Care Management Program for Chronic Disease that is called PATH (Personal Action Towards Health) in Michigan, A Matter of Balance, and Enhanced Fitness for older adults.

Ms. King stated all sixteen area agencies on aging were invited to participate in the program and PSAs 1-A, 2, 5, and 9 were chosen based on criteria developed by OSA. As part of the grant, each AAA will be developing community coalitions and initiating new evidence-based disease prevention programs. Each participating AAA will be awarded \$56,250 each year to support these activities. Total administrative costs for the program must not exceed \$9,375 of grant funding and each AAA must contribute \$5,000 match, which can include in-kind or non-federal dollars.

Ms. King also noted OSA has integrated some the grant components as a program development objective for the FY 2008 AAA Annual Implementation Plans, requiring each AAA to form a community coalition and implement at least one evidence-based disease prevention program during FY 2008.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gardner to approve the FY 2007 AoA Evidence-Based Disease Program Allocations. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The Commission approved with a 12-0-0 vote.

A brief discussion followed.

## **Approval of the FY 2008-2010 State Plan for Services to Michigan's Older Adults**

Bonnie Graham, OSA staff, presented the Commission with the proposed FY 2008-2010 State Plan for Services to Michigan's Older Adults.

Ms. Graham noted the draft State Plan was posted on the OSA website, [www.michigan.gov/MiSeniors](http://www.michigan.gov/MiSeniors), on July 3 for public review and comment. It was also forwarded electronically to all AAAs, the Aging Network and American Indian Elders Forum, the older volunteer program grantees and other aging service provider associations. An overview was given by Ms. Graham regarding the AoA requirements for the developing the State Plan.

Ms. Graham also highlighted some areas of the State Plan such as:

- long term care initiatives
- aging and disabilities concepts
- evidence-based disease prevention
- long term care insurance planning
- emergency planning

Ms. Graham discussed the public comments received regarding the FY 2008-2010 State Plan, the OSA response, and actions taken to modify the plan.

Ms. Graham requested approval of the FY 2008-2010 State Plan on Services to Michigan's Older Adults. If approved, the new three-year plan will be forwarded to the AoA for review and approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to approve the FY 2008-2010 State Plan for Services to Michigan's Older Adults and seconded by Commissioner Bollinger. The Commission approved with an 11-0-0 vote.

Discussion followed with Commissioner Newport noting public hearings had not been conducted in northern Lower Michigan and requested that a northern Michigan public hearing be scheduled in the future. Ms. Graham responded that a hearing had been scheduled for Gaylord but was cancelled given the Governor's Executive Directives and state budget crisis. Commissioner Newport also expressed a desire to reschedule the Commission's strategic planning session as soon as the budget crisis is resolved, noting the new state plan would be a useful tool in this process. Commissioner Bollinger supported Commissioner Newport's request to schedule more meetings around the state as it is important for the Commission to learn and understand more about the aging network and issues affecting older adults. Commissioner Gardner indicated that she would like to see more discussion on who is considered a minority and what groups are represented as part of the OSA Cultural Competency Strategic Plan.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMENTS**

### **Other**

Director Gire stated she will be meeting with the Governor's Appointment Division next week regarding the five Commissioners whose terms expire at the end of July. Director Gire also noted that Commissioners are expected to continue service on the Commission until either re-appointed or a replacement has been named.

Director Gire also read a letter from a person that gave testimony at the April 20, 2007 public hearing regarding older adults residing in manufactured housing communities. Director Gire asks that a committee be formed to work with OSA on this issue and housing advocacy. Commissioner Kennedy and Bollinger volunteered to serve on that committee.

Commissioner Walters stated that he attended a ground-breaking ceremony for KPEC industries which will bring jobs to Sanilac County. Commissioner Walters indicated that more employment in any community also benefits seniors.

Commissioner Talab noted the organization where she works, ACCESS, has been notified to expect the arrival of approximately 3,500 new refugees to Michigan. Many of the new refugees will be families that include older adults. Commissioner Talab requested more information regarding the availability of funds to support older refugees. Bonnie Graham stated that all refugee funds administered by OSA have been passed through from the Department of Human Services. Laura McMurtry from OSA has worked with these programs and would be the appropriate staff person to contact regarding future funding and support.

Commissioner Newport asked if the "Community for a Lifetime" program application and assessment guide is available on the OSA website. Ms. Graham stated that she will check with OSA staff on the status of availability and provide the information to the Commission.

Commissioner Newport asked where individuals can go to receive information and assistance regarding scams that primarily target seniors. Ms. Graham stated many local communities have a TRIAD that can be contacted. If not, individuals should contact Lynne McCollum, Legal Services Developer, at OSA. Commissioner Wright recommended that individuals could also use the 211 call system for information if it available in their community.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next meeting of the Commission on Services to the Aging will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 17, 2007 at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. Please plan on a full day. The Commission will be considering approval of the FY 2008 Area Agencies on Aging AIPs and grant allocations.

The August 2, 2007 State Advisory Council meetings has been cancelled due to ongoing concerns with the 2007 State budget. A meeting has been scheduled for October 5, 2007 at the Holiday Inn West Conference Center, but may also be cancelled if state budget issues are not resolved. OSA will notify the Commission as soon as information is available.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Pawelski. Commissioner Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.